

# HACKNEY ACTION 3p

No 3 OCTOBER 1972

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## RENTS RISE 90p THE BATTLE BEGINS

The decision taken by Hackney Borough Council to implement the Government's Housing Finance Act means that from October 1st council tenants will pay £1 rent increase, GLC tenants slightly less. These increases will go on until what is called a "Fair Rent" is reached. It is estimated that in four years all Council rents could be over double their present level. These rents will be periodically reviewed and assessed to even a higher figure in line with present housing market values. All this is justified by bringing in a rent rebate scheme, and a means test with it for all tenants except furnished tenants even though means tests have been thoroughly discredited by low take-ups in all other schemes. Rent rebates will be at a Social Security level of earning and operating from the new rent level. Tenants applying must submit themselves to a six-monthly means test. All personal assets will be assessed, your employer will be asked about your earnings. If your son's or daughter's income is greater than the father's, the tenant, he or she may be liable for the rent. A wage or income increase will mean a rent increase on any rebate level of rent.

Our local Councillors are to be replaced by Government hand-picked individuals calling themselves "Rent Scrutineers". This rent-fixing body will be comprised of lawyers, valuers, estate agents and the like - all having a vested interest in housing profits and high rents. They will meet periodically and there is no appeal against their final decisions.

In the private sector all controls and restrictions will be lifted as from October. After twelve months of decontrol it is estimated that rents will be treble their present level.

### RENT STRIKE

Now the battle can only be fought by the tenants associations. Hackney United Tenants Federation are urging a two week mass rent strike against the "Fair Rent Act". They are also urging tenants to withhold the weekly increase permanently. Councillor Bob Masters has stated that tenants who join the rent strike will not be evicted. In any case if enough people join the rent strike it would be impossible for the council to evict thousands of people.

### Whose side is your Councillor on? How they voted — For implementation (31)      Against implementation (27)

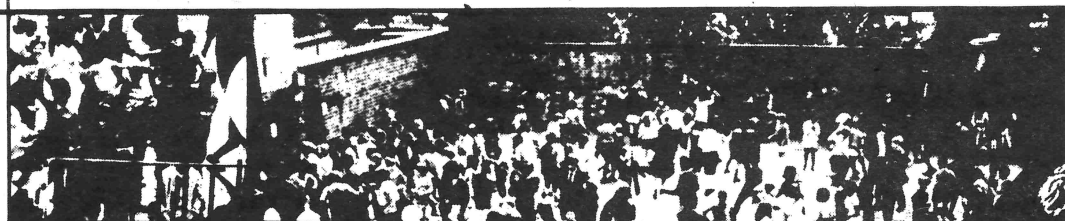
The Mayor - Councillor S.E. Kelly, Aldermen J.S. Death-ridge, Mrs. Jean M. Heath, Mrs. L. Hegerty, L. Layward, H.J. Lobenstein, L. Sherman, Mrs. Sally Sherman. Councillors M.J. Andrews, M. Comar, J.P. Dowling, J. Dunning, J.R.W. Evans, M.M. Feldman, J.R. Foskett, S.F. Hand, J.W. Hubbard, J. Hulstrom, Miss Lilian Karpin, M. Lawrence, H.J. Linsley, A.W. Linzell, Mrs. R. Lipman, S. Mather, Mrs. Florence A. Newill, T.A. Pugh, S. Scott, Mrs. Gladys M. Shanagher, G.E. Silver, A. Super, D.E. Timms, A.H.D. Waller, and F. Weeden.

Aldermen M. Ottolangui, S. Springer. Councillors C.F. Allman, R.A. Bennett, J.W. Bolton, C.R. Cable, R.A. Dick, S.W. Foster, A.C. Harrison, J. Kotz, J. Lissner, R.W. Masters, E.G.H. Millen, Mrs. Matilda A. Owen, R.E. Owen, G. Ross, R.A. Spong, P.G. Sylvester, R.J. Tallantire, A.L. Taylor, D.A. Trim, Mrs. J.M. Warawi, D.E. Ward, J.W. Warner, D. West, K.G. Wilson, and J.C. Wobey.

### Education in Hackney

Recently education has become a major issue in Hackney, there are two reasons for this - I.L.E.A. new transfer arrangement and the threatened re-organisation of secondary schools. The lack of consultation by ILEA and the transfer of children to secondary schools is serious, but the issue as a whole is a complicated one. We would welcome readers' views about this.

The re-organisation of secondary schools within the borough really means ILEA's threat of closure to six schools. The Hackney Schools Campaign which is backed by the NUT are fighting these moves, stressing that the use of these



schools would help to put kids on equal terms with kids from better-off areas, by reducing class size and giving space to already harassed kids.

The Hackney Schools Campaign have called a public meeting at Hackney Central Hall on October 17th. They have also issued a pamphlet 'Improving their chances' which sets out an alternative to ILEA's proposal on re-organising schools in the borough.



# 2 FIGHT THE TORY RENT BILL

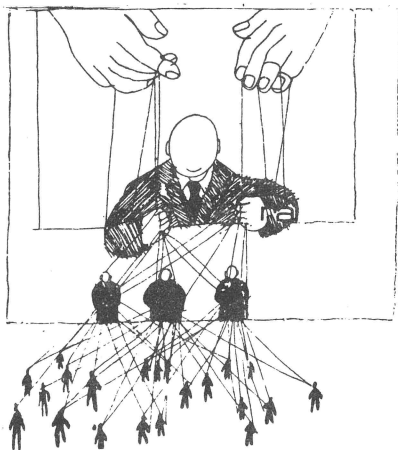
**"IT'S A CLASS ACT DIRECTED AGAINST ONE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY: THE WORKING CLASS."**

I have no doubt that the fight against this Tory Housing Finance Act will be as bitter as any struggle the Working Class have confronted since the end of the war. Apart from the proposed Rent Increases the introduction of a 1930 Means Test also the threatened attacks of Surcharge levelled against those Councillors who should have the courage to stand by their Democratic rights. It's a class act directed solely against one section of the community: the working class. Therefore this type of struggle with a class basis must be all the more bitter in its confrontation. But fight it we must if there's to be any decent future for the millions of working class families who are dependant for their accomadation on Council dwellings or Private Tenements.

The Act arises out of hatred by the Tories for organised house building for Social needs not for profit. It attempts to set the clock back 50 years by destroying the basis for Council planning and house building. No talk of repeal can undo the damage should this Act take shape. To struggle against it we are told is breaking the Law. It's the same voices using this argument as an escape from the pending struggle and who were telling us by going out and fighting. Moseley we were endangering Freedom of Speech. Such arguments are used to disarm the working class, to weaken their faith in themselves, to fight against such injustice whoever's Law it is.

The Hackney Council has made it's decision. These Labour Councillors have decided that in

subserviance to this Tory so-called Law they will be the perpetrators of this terrible Act against our people. If that is the case then we will have to fight the Council as well as the Government. Their decision is theirs to live with. We have made ours by organising and mobilising the Tenants in alliance with the local Trade Union movement to prepare them for the struggle against the Tory Act and, sad to relate, those Labour Councillors who choose to perform its dirty work. Our movement and call for action is gaining strength every day. The working class are more powerful than any set of Councillors whether they be Labour or Tory makes no difference. We welcome those Councillors



who are prepared to join us in the struggle: many have and many more will. The Decisions have been made.

The Bill is now Law, and we are now on the offensive demanding an end to this Act, and for a decent future for our People.

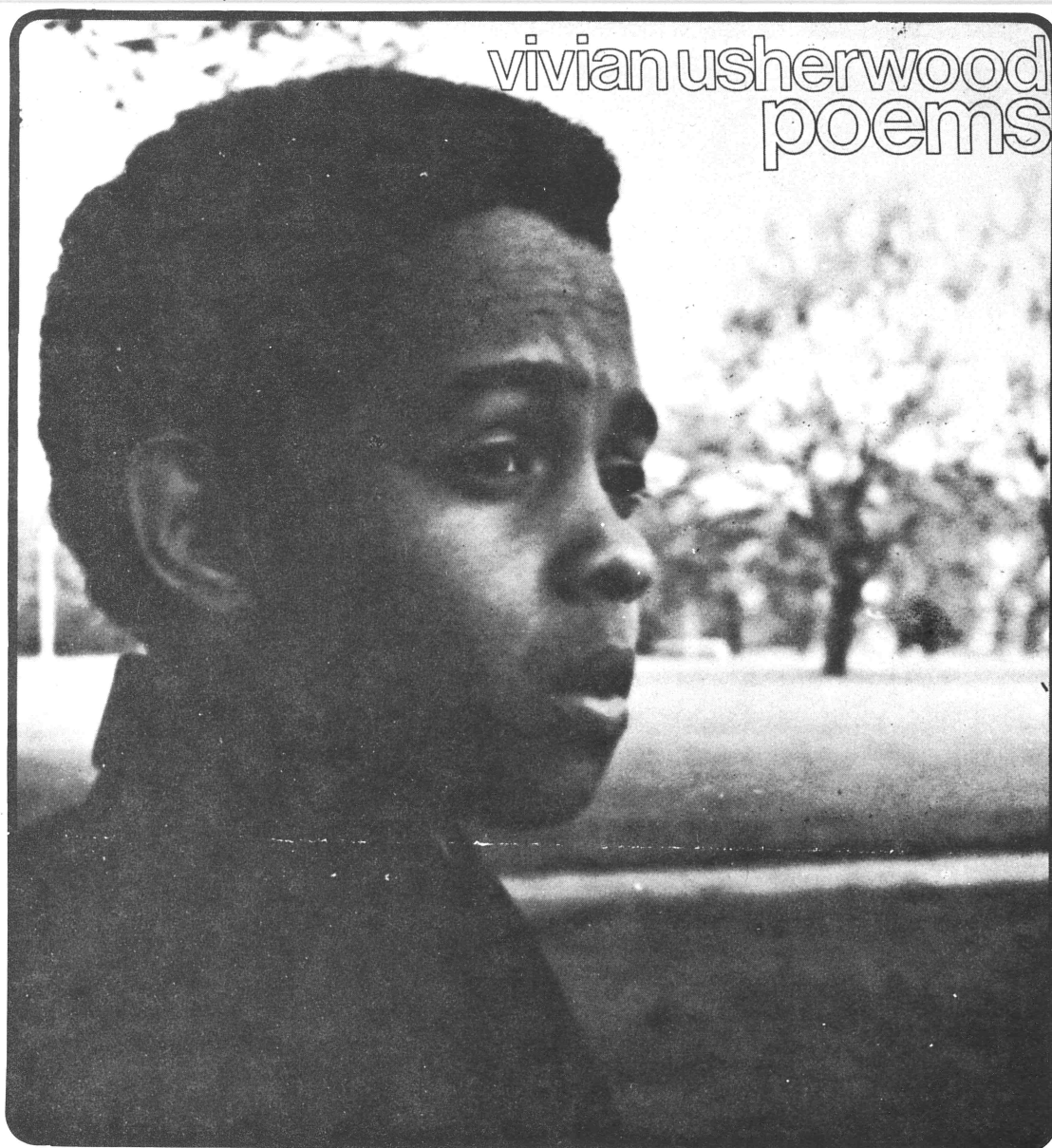
**BOB DARKE.**

**Sect:**

**Hackney United Tenants Fed.**



vivian usherwood poems



## my tears slip

Why am I crying, I wonder why  
Perhaps someone hit me  
Tears are now coming down my eyes  
Suddenly I stop still  
My tears begin to stop too  
I realised it was sill to cry  
Because I had to go to bed early  
I no longer care  
I have no luck after all  
Because I get in trouble for  
nothing I was touching an orange  
And i got into trouble  
Instead of going to bed after tea  
I went to bed in the middle  
So I missed my afters  
I got my pyjamas on  
Then she called to me finish my tea

Everybody enjoys themselves  
Apart from me  
Why? They get away with murder  
But just one unlike move  
And I am in for it  
I just don't know why  
They sent me from Trowbridge home  
To Montagu home  
The only thing about Trowbridge was  
That you were locked in  
You couldn't go out at all.

## my heart is broken

My heart has stopped beating  
Because of so many people ganging  
onto me.

They smash my hearts to bits  
There is only one bit left  
That too will go  
Then I shall go.

Then everybody will be glad  
To see a boy with no heart  
And died with no shame  
Dying with pride  
No shame no sorrow no pain  
Just tears and unhappiness  
Last of all a broken heart.

What does the name Vivian Earl  
Usherwood (Dixon) mean?  
I think it means punch, spit, kick  
I was born to take it.  
You can even do me  
I have no shame no pride no luck  
No heart and no pride  
I was born to take it all.

Well they are wrong  
It is the wrong person  
And that is no lie.

Vivien is thirteen and goes to a local school. The poems above are from his latest book of poems on sale at Centerprise for only 5p.

## books available from Centerprise

a Penguin Special  
**A Blueprint for Survival**  
The Ecologist

Penguin Classics  
**WAR AND PEACE**  
Leo Tolstoy

Penguin Classics  
**WAR AND PEACE 2**  
Leo Tolstoy

A Blueprint For Survival, originally published in January 1972 by the Ecologist magazine, is more than just another review of man's environmental problems; it offers radical proposals for immediate action. 30p

Few would dispute the claim of "War and Peace" to be regarded as the greatest novel in any language. This massive chronicle, to which Leo Tolstoy devoted five years portrays Russian family life during and after the Napleonic War. Tolstoy's faith in life and his piercing insight lend universality to a work which holds the mirror up to Nature as truly as that of Shakespeare or Homer. The first volume of Rosemary Edmond's modern translation takes the story as far as the appearance of the celebrated comet before Napoleon's crossing of the Niemen. The second volume describes Napoleon's Russian Campaign of 1812 and the retreat from Moscow.

Also available in paperback: FIRE WORDS, compiled by Chris Searle, a book of poems by children from eight to eighteen expressing their highly individual views on the world. 50p.



# Education in Hackney

**This is the first of a series of articles on education in Hackney in which it is hoped that some critical questions will be asked and some answers suggested. To be in any way successful there must be the involvement of all those whom school affects; pupils, parents and teachers. If you have any comments to make about education please write to us and we will print as much as possible.**

**Edith Cavell School** is on two sites, half a mile away from each other, separated by a busy main road, housed mostly in nineteenth century buildings, and sharing one building with an infant's school. Yet the possibility of its closure in 1980 has aroused huge opposition from most of Hackney's secondary schools. Parents and teachers from all over the borough have combined to form the Hackney Schools Campaign to fight against the closure. Why?

The closure - still only a possibility; a final decision will be made in November - is part of a major reorganisation of all secondary schools in Inner London which will be carried out during the 1970's. This reorganisation has two aims. One is to end the remaining grammar schools and give Inner London a completely comprehensive system - and this side of the proposals is welcomed by the Schools Campaign. The second purpose of the reorganisation is to close comprehensive schools and have fewer schools. The Inner London Education Authority justify this by pointing to the rapid fall in population in their area and arguing that if they kept all comprehensive schools open, the number of pupils at each school would fall too much.

It is this side of ILEA's proposals that is being challenged because, if all comprehensives were kept open, the population fall would enable all schools to have smaller classes, extra accommodation and better facilities.

What Hackney Schools Campaign is concerned with is not one particular school but better education all round Hackney.

While the government is banning any secondary school building and turning the screws on educational expenditure, the only way we can achieve any improvement in educational standards is to keep all schools open, to keep employing all the teachers now in London; to keep all the present buildings in use even while the population drops. If ILEA gets away with its plans and closes schools, sacks teachers and cuts expenditure at the same rate as the population falls there will be exactly the same standard of education in ten years time as now.

That is a terrifying prospect, for the difficulties and challenges of education are always increasing, and we need continually growing educational provision just to keep pace.

Take the size of classes. At present ILEA aims for an average of 30 pupils per class in its secondary schools. Sounds good compared with the primary schools or what the situation used to be. But think of Hackney children and all the problems they face - the overcrowding at home, the large families (a factor which we now know is very important in holding back educational development) the number of broken homes, the low income of most of their parents - and you see why teachers demand much

smaller classes than 30. For all these social facts are reflected in the schools - lots of backward readers, disturbed children, disruptive pupils. Problems that can best be tackled in smaller classes. Or take the accommodation situation in schools. The government lays down space standards for schools which are hardly ever achieved. Yet even these are inadequate. Overcrowding in Hackney schools is holding back most pupils. There are just not enough rooms in schools, so you get groups being taught in corridors and cloakrooms, or rooms continuously in use so that teachers have no time to set up equipment and prepare lessons. There isn't the space to introduce new facilities like language laboratories, film rooms, specialist workshops, or careers rooms. There aren't enough offices or stockrooms. Yet ILEA want to close buildings down.

And new teaching methods demand smaller classes and more rooms. The old type of teaching with a teacher lecturing to a class who are all sitting in their desks is on the way out. Now there is a lot more 'discovery' work by the pupils, working in groups or by themselves, needing lots of individual advice from the teacher and more space to spread out their work. Schools are also unstreaming their classes - mixing all levels of ability in one class - and that also demands more individual assistance from the teacher, and a much better knowledge of his pupils on the teacher's part.

So, however you look at it, you reach the same conclusion: our schools desperately need smaller classes and more accommodation. And now, with the population going down, they could gain both. If ILEA simply left its schools alone, they would gradually have less pupils and therefore smaller classes and fewer classes, giving them some of the extra space they need.

But ILEA have other plans. They want to axe some schools and therefore keep the others as tightly packed as now. They

don't want any improvement in standards, in at least the next 10 years. And that stagnation really means a big decline, for the difficulties of education are constantly increasing as new methods are introduced, and as the preparation of pupils with learning difficulties grows. ILEA's plans would lead to a worsening situation in all our schools - more illiteracy, more behaviour problems, more truancy, more teachers leaving because of frustration with how little they can achieve.

Hackney Schools Campaign is fighting to keep all comprehensive schools open as a first step in improving our education system. In Hackney the struggle centres around the ILEA proposal to close Edith Cavell, but if that proposal were carried out, all schools would suffer. Therefore all Hackney pupils, stand to gain if ILEA drop their plans.

So far the proposals have got no further than being issued for public discussion in a Green Paper. ILEA members will vote on them in mid-November. It is vital that all Hackney organisations, unions, tenant associations, political parties etc and as many individuals as possible send their opinions to County Hall during September and October.

The Schools Campaign suggests a resolution along these lines: We welcome ILEA's proposal to abolish all remaining selective education in our area but deplore proposals to close comprehensive schools as we want the fall in population to be used as an opportunity to lower class size and to relieve school overcrowding. Resolutions should be sent to ILEA's Divisional Officer at Ockway House, Stamford Hill, N16. With copies, if possible, to Hackney's representatives at ILEA at County Hall (Mrs Chaplin, David Pitt, Ellis Hillman, Lou Sherman) and a copy to the Schools Campaign, 1 Bushberry Rd, E9. There is also a big public meeting on October 17th in the Central Hall, Mare St, at 7.30pm. Meanwhile we would welcome offers of help and be pleased to offer further information.

**RUTH SILVER**



# information

## Hackney Claimants Union

For help in all matters concerning Social Security. Meetings 12.30 Weds. Office 2-5 Tues. & Thurs. at Centerprise.

## Hackney United Tenants Fed.

Great protest meeting against the Housing Finance Act. at: Hackney Town Hall, Wednesday October 4th. 7.45pm.

## Hackney teachers & social workers group

### MEETING:

Tuesday 10 October. Clissold Park School at 5:15 pm Discussion includes potential of community action through area teacher/social workers groups.



## Legal Aid and Advice If you need it just ask

FREE aid and advice on housing, legal and social security matters. Thursday evenings between 6.30 & 7.30 at Centerprise

## Homerton/South Hackney Claimants Union

5 Templemead House Kingsmead Estate Centre Homerton Road, E.9. Telephone 985 3987 Meetings Monday 7.30-10.00p.m. Office Friday 10.30-12noon Monday

## St.Mungo Community Trust Winter Survival Campaign '72

Survey - 20th October 1972 The survey, which will be a "head count", is to take into account not only those homeless on the streets, but will include people in derelict buildings, and those of "no fixed address" in prisons, hospitals, police and court cells mental hospitals, reception centres, hostels etc. The intention of the WINTER SURVIVAL CAMPAIGN '72 is to draw to the notice of the Government the plight of the homeless single person and, more important, to provide practical, on-the-streets help. This will involve a mobile medical unit, clothes distribution, a night shelter, a mobile day centre to provide advice and friendship, and a three day out-of-doors Christmas party. For us to do these and other projects, we need your help. We will be covering fifteen Inner London Boroughs and each Borough will have an Area Leader responsible for that Borough. WE NEED ONE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you are interested, please contact us at: 228-6507

## Costa Packet

a candy floss holiday extravaganza by frank norman songs by lionel bart and alan klein directed by joan littlewood from- thursday october 5 evenings at 8pm sats; 5pm & 8pm

THEATRE ROYAL Stratford E15 tel: 534-0310

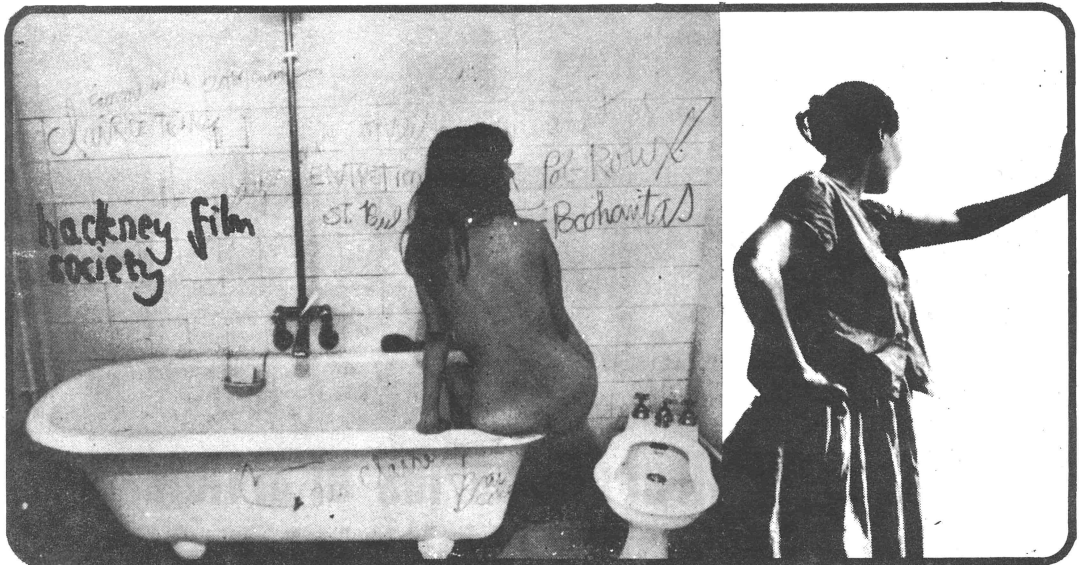
## half moon theatre gallery 27 Alie st. E1



### BLACK WORDS

A benefit for Tony Soares and Grass Roots Sunday, 8th October. 8.00 p.m. Admission 20p. Mamal Ali Tony Soares Third World Troubadours ... and others

Six Photographers Jim Arnould Oct. 5 - 29 Val Perrin Thur - Sun Peter Turner 12 - 6 Geoff Howard John O'Hagan Dennis Morris



EVERYTHING about the Hackney Film Society is new. Support from the Hackney Borough Council has enabled the Society to undertake a major expansion programme.

TWO NEW SEASONS: The Autumn and Winter Seasons will bring 24 top quality film shows to Hackney.

AUTUMN SEASON: Each Thursday 21.9.72 to 7.12.72. ....

WINTER SEASON: Each Thursday 18.1.73 to 5.4.73

Plus supporting programme Foreign films have English sub-titles or are dubbed.

A NEW TIME: Every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in Dalston Library Hall, Dalston Lane, E.8.

NEW BARGAIN TERMS Society membership will cost 60p per session (90p for both sessions booked at the same time). Special membership rates for Senior Citizens, 10p for one session (15p for two booked at one time).

AND NEW ENTRANCE CHARGES: Top level entertainment

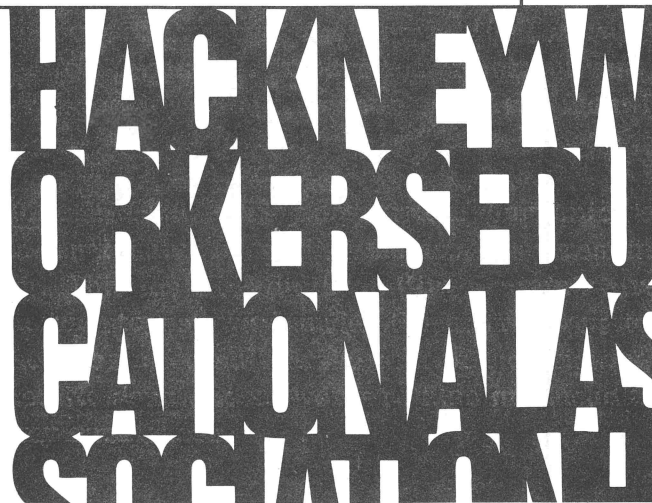
with the H.F.S will cost 5p (senior citizens 2p) Guests 15p. WRITE now for membership to: Miss Suzanne Lang, Hackney Film Society, c/o Central Library, Mare St. London E.8 1HG

## Autumn Season

Pather Panchali L'Age D'or Kanal La Grande Illusion The Lady Killers Storm Over Asia Bicycle Thieves The Grapes Of Wrath Sous les toits de Paris Les Enfants du Paradis Morgan: A suitable case for treatment Childhood of Maxim Gorki

## Winter Season

Dr. Strangelove Seven Samurai The Little World of Don Camillo Julius Caesar Hamlet (The great Russian version) The Bride wore Black Traffic 'M' Passport to Pimlico Black Orpheus Carmen Jones La Baie des Anges



## Hackney Workers Educational Association programme 1972-3



PLANNING IN HACKNEY Michael Fleetwood features editor architects' journal

A guide to the complexities of planning in Hackney and London, motorways, primary roads, conservation, parks redevelopment, for people who want to participate.

Course begins Monday October 9th 8pm Dalston Lane library.

A WORKER'S GUIDE TO THE BRITISH ECONOMY Paul Simpson lecturer in industrial relations A series of 8 lectures.

Course begins Thursday October 5th 8pm Hackney & Stoke-Newington College for Further Education, Ayrson Rd, N16.

HISTORY OF THE WELFARE STATE Edmund Wilmott A series of 5 lectures

An experienced look at the myths and the facts does the welfare state really live up to the ideals of its founders?

Course begins Tuesday September 12th 8pm Hackney Town Hall, Mare St. E8 PEOPLE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HACKNEY Ken Worpole local teacher and author

A project using tape recorders and cameras to collect peoples' experiences of schools and education.

Course begins Wednesday September 27th 7.45pm Centerprise 34 Dalston Lane E8.



# Hackney Trade Council Action Committee

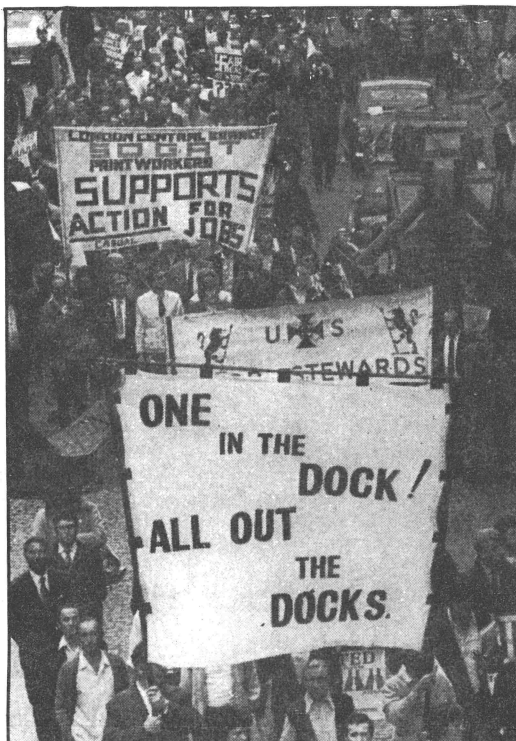
The attack by Parliament upon the trade unions with its Industrial Relations Act, upon immigrants with the racist Immigration Act, upon tenants with the Housing Finance Act, and upon the whole population with the decision to enter the Common Market - it was all this that stirred the Hackney Trade Council to form an Action Committee, which would organise the way in which its decisions could be carried out and which would unite trade council delegates, rank and file trade unionists and activists from tenants associations, action groups and political organisations in combined action against the enemies of the working classes.

At its last meeting, on Tuesday Sept. 12th, there were members of the trade council, trade unionists, members of tenants associations, members of the Homerton Claimant Union, and members from the Labour Party, the Communist Party, the International Socialist Group and the Black Unity and Freedom Party. Under the neutral but left-wing chairmanship of the Trade Council, the idea is that this is the way to unite the Left in Hackney in combined action. And it is working.

Action began over a year ago with agitation against the Common Market. The Common Market is plain and simple a new way of organising Europe in the interests of the Boss Class - the employers and property owners. And the principal enemy of this Boss Class is organised labour - if organised properly! Leaflets were distributed and meetings held. Neither Trade Union opposition nor the opposition of political groups succeeded in deterring Heath and Co., but it has had the effect of committing the Labour Party to holding a referendum on the issue and renegotiating the terms of entry, after the next election.

But if there was any issue that aroused the total opposition of the Trade Union movement it was the Industrial Relations Act. Here the principle at stake was clear - the very existence of trade unions as a force strong enough to resist the Boss Class in their eternal effort to bleed the working population. The activity of the Action Committee was again to distribute leaflets, to hold meetings,

members were down at the picket lines at Midland Cold Storage, outside the prison with the Trade Council Banner and in the march from Tower Hill to Pentonville; and organised a meeting in Hackney during the imprisonment of trade unionists with the chairman and secretary of the Dockers Strike Committee. It was getting 30,000 leaflets ready for publication calling upon all Hackney workers to strike, when the Tories finally gave in and released the Five.



The Action Committee is now totally committed, together with the Hackney United Tenants Federation and tenants association members among its membership, to organising resistance to the Housing Finance Bill. It has not only distributed HUTF leaflets in estates which still don't have tenant associations; it brought out its own leaflet as a Trade Council leaflet aimed at workers in Hackney showing them that a rent increase is a wage cut and that resistance to the Act must come from organised labour as well as from the tenant associations. At the urging of its Action Committee the Trade Council has told all its affiliated trade union branches that it will support any strike action they might take against the Act, and called upon the TUC to make October 2nd the first day of the rent increases, a day of national strike action. More plans are now being formed for the formation of more tenant associations, for closer work with the HUFT and for a conference of rank and file trade unionists in the Borough to plan resistance to the Act.

Out of the Action Committee another committee has been formed, the

Trade Council Pensioners Committee. Its members are trade councillors, members of the London Trade Unionists and Pensioners Joint Committee and the Homerton Claimant Union.

The issue is plain. OAPs are being kept at starvation rates because they no longer contribute to the profits of industry. And the worker of today is the pensioner of tomorrow!

The work of the Action Committee is immense. The issues it tackles are vital to everyone. It can do only as much as it has members. All workers and activists interested to share in the work should contact the Committee's secretary, Michael Knowles, 192 Upper Clapton Rd., E5.

## food —

Here are two cheap recipes:-

1. Macaroni bacon and cheese for five.

Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb macaroni (Sainsburys 10p 1b) 5p  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb cheese (Sainsburys 28p 1b) 7p  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb bacon pieces (Robinsons) 4p  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb margarine (Sainsburys) 2p  
 2 tblsps flour (Sainsburys) 1p  
 1lb onions (Ridley Rd) 3p

Tin mixed veg. (Robinsons) 4p  
 1pt milk 5p  
 pepper and salt.

TOTAL PRICE.....31 $\frac{1}{2}$ p

METHOD: 1. Boil macaroni until just tender. Strain. 2. Slice onions. 3. Cut all bacon onions. 3. Cut fat off bacon, cut lean meat into very small pieces. 4. With a little of margarine fry onions and bacon until cooked. 5. Melt remainder of margarine, add flour and stir to a paste over heat. Add milk drop by drop until it joins paste, and thicken faster. Add salt and pepper. 6. Mix all ingredients together in a pie or baking dish. 7. Grate cheese on top and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes.

2. Mackerel egg and sweet corn pie for five.

Ingredients:

8oz tin mackerel (Sainsburys) 11p  
 1lb onions 3p  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb frozen swweet corn 8p  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb potatoes 3p  
 4 lge eggs (Robinsons 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ p  $\frac{1}{2}$ doz) 6p  
 1 tbsp. margarine 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p  
 TOTAL PRICE.....32p

METHOD: 1. Dice onions and fry lightly. 2. Boil and mash the potatoes. 3. Boil and thick slice the eggs. 4. Mix mackerel, onions sweetcorn, eggs together in well-greased pie dish. Season to taste. 5. Cover with mashed potato. Brush lightly with tablespoon of milk. 6. Bake in moderate oven for 40 minutes.



For the first time ever in Hackney representatives of tenants and community associations, trades-unionists and shop-keepers, young and old, not forgetting commuters, are being invited to a conference on October 18th in Central Hall Mare St being organised by six different bodies called together on the initiative of the Committee Against Racism. There are so many different organisations trying to get things done that it seems only sensible for them to get together.

We feel that Hackney should be made a better, cleaner, healthier and more beautiful place to live and work in, that it should become a more human and humane environment. We think it important to expose those factors and agencies which are responsible for increasing the squalor in which so many of us have to exist, so that they can be effectively fought. We hope to establish channels of communication with the powers that be and bring about genuine participation in planning etc. We are convinced that if all the organisations who are making efforts already on these lines can come together then we can find the strength to defeat bureaucracy. We want to learn about your successes and failures, so that effective ways of getting the things that we all want for Hackney can be worked out, and plans made to put them into practice.

Obviously we cannot blueprint the reconstruction of Hackney in one short evening, but we can hear what has already been learnt and achieved and plan for future co-operation.

Sponsored by:

Hackney Committee Against Racism. Clapton Homerton & District Residents' Association. Hackney Society. Trades Council Action Committee. Transport Action Committee. United Tenants' Federation.



# Hackney Trade Council Action Committee

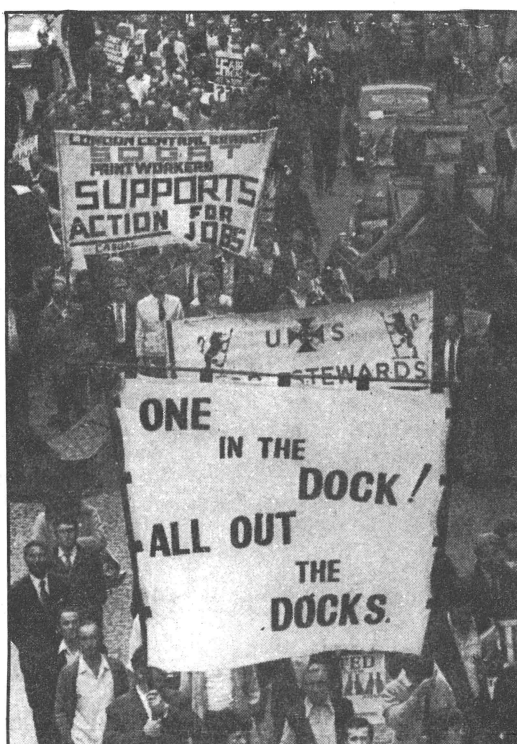
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Action began over a year ago with agitation against the Common Market. The Common Market is plain and simple a new way of organising Europe in the interests of the Boss Class - the employers and property owners. And the principal enemy of this Boss Class is organised labour - if organised properly! Leaflets were distributed and meetings held. Neither Trade Union opposition nor the opposition of political groups succeeded in deterring Heath and Co., but it has had the effect of committing the Labour Party to holding a referendum on the issue and renegotiating the terms of entry, after the next election.

But if there was any issue that aroused the total opposition of the Trade Union movement it was the Industrial Relations Act. Here the principle at stake was clear - the very existence of trade unions as a force strong enough to resist the Boss Class in their eternal effort to bleed the working population. The activity of the Action Committee was again to distribute leaflets, to hold meetings,

members were down at the picket lines at Midland Cold Storage, outside the prison with the Trade Council Banner and in the march from Tower Hill to Pentonville; and organised a meeting in Hackney during the imprisonment of trade unionists with the chairman and secretary of the Dockers Strike Committee. It was getting 30,000 leaflets ready for publication calling upon all Hackney workers to strike, when the Tories finally gave in and released the Five.



The Action Committee is now totally committed, together with the Hackney United Tenants Federation and tenants association members among its membership, to organising resistance to the Housing Finance Bill. It has not only distributed HUTF leaflets in estates which still don't have tenant associations; it brought out its own leaflet as a Trade Council leaflet aimed at workers in Hackney showing them that a rent increase is a wage cut and that resistance to the Act must come from organised labour as well as from the tenant associations. At the urging of its Action Committee the Trade Council has told all its affiliated trade union branches that it will support any strike action they might take against the Act, and called upon the TUC to make October 2nd the first day of the rent increases, a day of national strike action. More plans are now being formed for the formation of more tenant associations, for closer work with the HUTF and for a conference of rank and file trade unionists in the Borough to plan resistance to the Act.

Out of the Action Committee another committee has been formed, the

Trade Council Pensioners Committee. Its members are trade councillors, members of the London Trade Unionists and Pensioners Joint Committee and the Homerton Claimant Union.

The issue is plain. OAPs are being kept at starvation rates because they no longer contribute to the profits of industry. And the worker of today is the pensioner of tomorrow!

The work of the Action Committee is immense. The issues it tackles are vital to everyone. It can do only as much as it has members. All workers and activists interested to share in the work should contact the Committee's secretary, Michael Knowles, 192 Upper Clapton Rd., E5.

## food —

Here are two cheap recipes:-

1. Macaroni bacon and cheese for five.

### Ingredients:

1lb macaroni (Sainsburys 10p 1lb) 5p  
1lb cheese (Sainsburys 28p 1lb) 7p  
1lb bacon pieces (Robinsons) 4p  
1lb margarine (Sainsburys) 2p  
2 tblsps flour (Sainsburys) 1p  
1lb onions (Ridley Rd)

Tin mixed veg. (Robinsons) 4p  
1pt milk 5p  
pepper and salt.

TOTAL PRICE.....31½p

**METHOD:** 1. Boil macaroni until just tender. Strain. 2. Slice onions. 3. Cut all bacon onions. 3. Cut fat off bacon, cut lean meat into very small pieces. 4. With a little of margarine fry onions and bacon until cooked. 5. Melt remainder of margarine, add flour and stir to a paste over heat. Add milk drop by drop until it joins paste, and thicken faster. Add salt and pepper. 6. Mix all ingredients together in a pie or baking dish. 7. Grate cheese on top and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes.

2. Mackerel egg and sweet corn pie for five.

### Ingredients:

8oz tin mackerel (Sainsburys) 11p  
1lb onions 3p  
1lb frozen sweet corn 8p  
1½lb potatoes 3p  
4 lge eggs (Robinsons 8½p ½doz) 6p  
1 tbsp. margarine 4½p  
TOTAL PRICE.....32p

**METHOD:** 1. Dice onions and fry lightly. 2. Boil and mash the potatoes. 3. Boil and thick slice the eggs. 4. Mix mackerel, onions sweetcorn, eggs together in well-greased pie dish. Season to taste. 5. Cover with mashed potato. Brush lightly with tablespoon of milk. 6. Bake in moderate oven for 40 minutes.



## hackney conference for a better environment

For the first time ever in Hackney representatives of tenants and community associations, trades-unionists and shop-keepers, young and old, not forgetting commuters, are being invited to a conference on October 18th in Central Hall Mare St being organised by six different bodies called together on the initiative of the Committee Against Racism. There are so many different organisations trying to get things done that it seems only sensible for them to get together.

We feel that Hackney should be made a better, cleaner, healthier and more beautiful place to live and work in, that it should become a more human and humane environment. We think it important to expose those factors and agencies which are responsible for increasing the squalor in which so many of us have to exist, so that they can be effectively fought. We hope to establish channels of communication with the powers that be and bring about genuine participation in planning etc. We are convinced that if all the organisations who are making efforts already on these lines can come together then we can find the strength to defeat bureaucracy. We want to learn about your successes and failures, so that effective ways of getting the things that we all want for Hackney can be worked out, and plans made to put them into practice.

Obviously we cannot blueprint the reconstruction of Hackney in one short evening, but we can hear what has already been learnt and achieved and plan for future co-operation.

### Sponsored by:

Hackney Committee Against Racism. Clapton Homerton & District Residents' Association. Hackney Society. Trades Council Action Committee. Transport Action Committee. United Tenants' Federation.





# Geffrye Museum

By **Jeffery Daniels**  
Curator since 1969

How did it begin? The Geffrye Museum was opened in 1914 as a museum of furniture and woodwork, a theme directly related to the surrounding area. In the words of the foreword of the first edition of the handbook of the Geffrye Museum (1931), 'When The London County Council had to decide the purpose to which the old almshouses in Kingsland Road should be adapted, it was influenced by their situation in a district which is a centre of the furniture and cabinet-making industry, where a museum containing exhibits connected with this industry would be of special value to local craftsmen, as well as to students and others interested in the history and design 'period' furniture and the wood-workers' craft and their influence on the homes of the people.' The slightly paternalistic tone should not be allowed to obscure the crucial importance of the principle expressed, namely the relevance of a cultural institution to its environment, both immediate and extended.

The educational work began in 1935 when the then London County Council placed the museum under the control of its Education Committee, and the curator, Mrs Marjorie Quennell re-arranged the exhibits in a series of 'period rooms' which still form the basic display of the collections. Children and young people were encouraged to make use of the museum's facilities with such success that under her successor, Mrs Molly Harrison, the museum could tartly be described by a blunt north-country curator as 'nothing but one vast teaching aid.'

Mrs Harrison retired in 1969 and by appointing me, a young Oxford art historian, the advisory committee clearly anticipated some change in direction. This has happened, since while preserving the value of the educational work, I want to increase the museum's attraction to the community as a whole: after all the culturally deprived today are not so much the young as their elders, whose experience of the arts is almost always at second-hand, through the medium of television.

How does one get people to visit a museum? It must be inviting rather than intimidating, and here the Geffrye has the advantage of its beautiful building, appealingly domestic in scale as was appropriate to almshouses. It must



also try to reach out to the community, and one of the ways in which I have tried to do this is by mounting a series of temporary exhibitions. Hackney Houses, consisting of photographs by a local teacher, Margaret Macdonald, focussed attention on the changing environment in the borough; Nell Gwynne's appeal was wider and certainly got a fantastic response from the press and the public; the recent exhibition George Dance, the most ambitious ever mounted at the museum, combined a number of themes of both local and general interest. The parish church of Shoreditch, St Leonard's, by George Dance the elder gave me the starting point and George the younger's relation to the Neoclassical movement a tie-up with the mammoth Council of Europe exhibition at Burlington House and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The conservation issue is of much more than local interest, although the question of the De Beauvoir G.I.A. brings it back to home ground, and if our exhibition helped to make people conservation conscious then it will have performed a service additional to its basic function of presenting the works of two eighteenth-century architects in an attractive and intelligible way.

What of the future? Administered by the I.L.E.A. on behalf of the G.L.C. the Geffrye could become the centre of a museum complex covering the whole range of the crafts and industries of East London. Together with the new Museum of London in the Barbican, the revitalised Bethnal Green Museum and the magnificent Whitechapel Art Gallery this would put the eastern part of London on the cultural map, providing a viable alternative to South Kensington.

My hopes for a closer working association with the local borough council have not so far been realised: the George Dance exhibition was to have been presented as part of Hackney's contribution to the Festival of London Boroughs, but unfortunately, after over a year's discussion and consultation this idea had to be abandoned. I do not despair, however, and I hope that one day the Geffrye Museum's already meaningful relationship to its surroundings will be reinforced by means of tangible local support.



**BOTTOM LEFT:** George Dance exhibition: In the background are original photographs of Newgate Prison and on the right a fragment of balustrading from his brother's house at Hyde Park Corner.

**TOP RIGHT:** This summer a project on Newgate Prison has encouraged the children to take an active interest in the George Dance exhibition and one of them wrote a short play with the Prison as it's setting.